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DE RUEHRA #0432 1571449
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY RIGA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4095
INFO RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 1186

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIGA 000432

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/06/2012

TAGS: PARM KCFE PREL NATO LG

SUBJECT: LATVIA SUPPORTS CFE REVIEW GOALS; DOESN'T WANT TO BE LEFT OUT

REF: A) STATE 77371 B) STATE 75293

Classified By: Ambassador Catherine Todd Bailey. Reason: 1.4 (D)

¶1. (C) A/DCM delivered ref a points and ref b background to Latvian MFA Poldir Ilgvars Klava on June 6. Klava took detailed notes throughout the conversation. Although Latvia will not participate in the review conference (it is not party to the CFE treaty), it would actively engage at the HLTF in Brussels. Klava welcomed news that A/S Fried would lead the US delegation to the review conference. Klava said he hoped that no decisions would be taken at the review conference that would bear on the four Allies not currently in the CFE, without their involvement. He noted our suggestion that the states not party issue a statement reaffirming their desire to join the A/CFE. Klava and A/DCM discussed the possibility of Latvian FM Pabriks doing that when he sees FM Lavrov on June 12 and then reflect that in the press release that follows the meeting. Klava opined that it was good news that Russia had not recently complained nearly as often or as loud about Baltic non-participation in the CFE regime.

¶2. (C) Comment: Klava genuinely welcomed our consultation on this issue, reaffirming that "we have no standing under the treaty" but stressed that Latvia wants to be a constructive part of the process. To that end, we note that the ref A talking points say that we would be willing to consider changes to the A/CFE treaty once it has entered into force. We believe that it is important to add "and after the states not currently party to the treaty have acceded" so that our Baltic Allies (and Slovenia) don't feel there is a possibility they could be left out of the process.

BAILEY